



Directorate of
Intelligence

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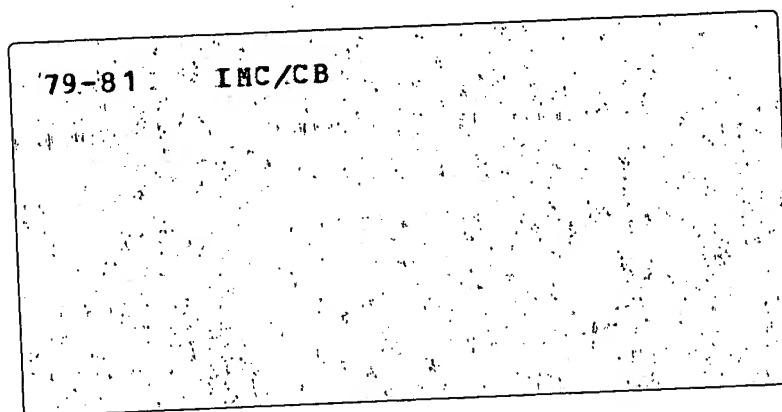
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Afghanistan Situation Report

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AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT

CONTENTS

SUMMER CAMPAIGN IN FULL SWING [REDACTED]

1 25X1

Soviet and Afghan regime forces are conducting military operations in the Panjsher Valley, near Herat, north of the Salang Pass, and in Paktia Province, with the insurgents putting up strong resistance. [REDACTED]

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DECLINE IN AIRSTRIKES [REDACTED]

1 25X1

Airstrikes against Pakistan have dropped significantly since the Konar Valley operation ended in early June. [REDACTED]

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IN BRIEF

2

PERSPECTIVE

AFGHANISTAN IN JUNE [REDACTED]

3 25X1

Soviet and Afghan forces succeeded in driving out most resistance groups from the Konar Valley, but the insurgents increased activity in the Panjsher Valley, Herat and Helmand Provinces, and along the vital Salang highway. [REDACTED]

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This document is prepared weekly by the Office of Near Eastern and South Asian Analysis and the Office of Soviet Analysis. Questions or comments on the issues raised in the publication should be directed to [REDACTED]

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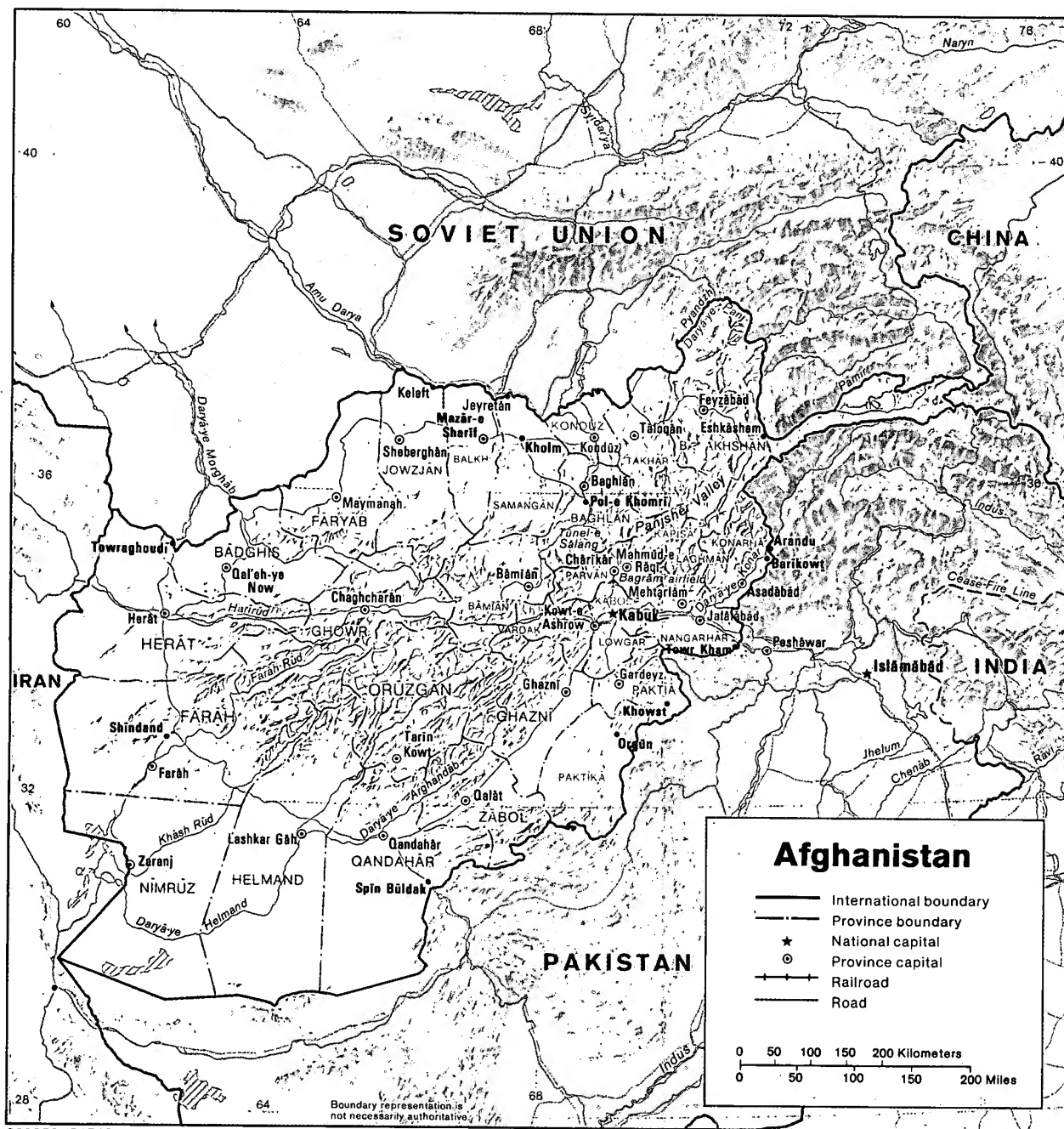
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SUMMER CAMPAIGN IN FULL SWING [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the Soviets have expanded the Panjsher Valley offensive--underway since late June. Moscow has introduced some 6,500 new troops into the Valley. The offensive so far is meeting stiff resistance, and [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] large numbers of Afghan troops stationed in the Panjsher have deserted or been killed. The insurgents have attacked several convoys and, [REDACTED] regime and Soviet casualties are high. [REDACTED]

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In Herat, a Soviet regiment began a four-day sweep on 10 July. [REDACTED] the Soviets sent in reinforcements from the USSR. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the Soviets were also conducting regimental-size operations north of the Salang Pass near Pol-e Khomri and in Paktia Province near Gardeyz. [REDACTED]

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Comment: The high level of insurgent activity in the Panjsher indicates that Jamiat leader Masood's forces have regained their strength following last fall's Soviet offensive in the valley. Past offensives have shown that the Soviets are able to move up the Valley despite guerrilla resistance. In these operations, however, the insurgents generally have managed to get away before Soviet forces could cut off their escape routes. [REDACTED]

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DECLINE IN AIR STRIKES [REDACTED]

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Air attacks against Pakistani territory have declined significantly since the Konar Valley operation ended in early June. [REDACTED] only one bombing incident between early June and mid-July whereas attacks had been occurring five to 10 times a month since last autumn. Overflights of Pakistani territory also decreased significantly, but [REDACTED] overflights resumed in late June. [REDACTED]

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Comment: The decline in airstrikes reflects the completion of military operations in the Konar Valley. The strikes probably will resume with Soviet/Afghan operations near the border or with increasing insurgent activity. The decline in

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airstrikes suggests that airstrikes are designed primarily to disrupt insurgent operations or support Soviet and Afghan regime ground operations, and only secondarily to intimidate Pakistan. [REDACTED]

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IN BRIEF

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-- Kabul Radio reported on 11 July that several civilians were killed by a bomb set off by "counter-revolutionaries" in the marketplace of the main Soviet housing complex in Kabul. [REDACTED]

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-- Following a three-month investigation, in early June KHAD officials arrested or dismissed 385 KHAD officers suspected of sympathizing or cooperating with the resistance, [REDACTED]

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-- An official of the International Committee for the Red Cross says it has decided to send Red Cross personnel into Afghanistan without asking Kabul's permission to interview Soviet prisoners held by the insurgents. The effort will be limited to the protection of prisoners. [REDACTED]

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-- Babrak Karmal departed Kabul on 10 July for the Soviet Union for a "general medical checkup," according to Kabul radio. Babrak, who reportedly underwent medical treatment in Moscow two months ago, [REDACTED]

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PERSPECTIVE**AFGHANISTAN IN JUNE**

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Soviet/Afghan forces completed a major spring assault in the Konar Valley, breaking a lengthy siege of the Afghan garrison at Barikowt and forcing the insurgents, probably only temporarily, out of their Konar redoubts. The insurgents increased their activities in the Panjsher Valley, Herat and Helmand Provinces, and along the vital Salang highway, and Soviet and Afghan troops conducted multibattalion sweeps in the same regions.

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The Konar Valley Campaign

The combined Soviet/Afghan operations in the Konar Valley, which employed air and ground units from throughout eastern Afghanistan, ended shortly after a Soviet convoy broke through to Barikowt on 6 June. Nearly all of the 10,000 Soviet and Afghan troops used in the campaign soon returned to their garrisons.

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[redacted] The Soviets' primary objectives apparently were to:

- avoid the embarrassment of losing the strategically important Afghan garrison at Barikowt;
- disrupt insurgent supply lines;
- destroy weapons and provisions caches; and
- scatter and drive out insurgent forces.

The minor increases of Soviet/Afghan troops and outposts in the Konar indicates retention of territory was of secondary concern. [redacted]

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Soviet satisfaction may be short-lived. [redacted]

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[redacted] The Soviets staged battalion-size operations in late June as insurgent attacks intensified. [redacted]

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Insurgents Pick Up the Pace

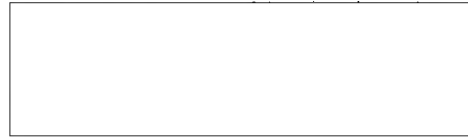
Resistance efforts picked up noticeably by the middle of June. They had successes in several regions.

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- Shindand. Sympathizers in the Afghan Air Force sabotaged and destroyed more than 20 Afghan fighter aircraft, [redacted]

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[redacted] This loss represents approximately 10 percent of fixed-wing combat aircraft in the Afghan Air Force. Despite increased Soviet concern for airfield security, the insurgents also damaged aircraft at Qandahar and Bagram airbases during the month.

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- Panjsher Valley. A series of attacks in the central section of the valley resulted in the death of an Afghan general and the capture of more than 400 Afghan troops, according to sources of the US Embassy in Kabul.

- Herat. Insurgent forces controlled much of the city and were continually harassing the garrison and airport. [redacted]

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- Mazar-e Sharif. An explosion damaged a government housing complex which resulted in the death of at least 40 regime officials and army officers, according to a source of the US Embassy in Kabul.



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Other Soviet/Afghan Military Operations

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[redacted] increased Soviet preparation for a major offensive in the Panjsher Valley. [redacted]

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Soviet and Afghan regime forces thwarted insurgent attempts to penetrate the Kabul security zone on at least two occasions. The US Embassy in Kabul reports, however, that the nearly 10-month lull in fighting around the capital was broken by several insurgent rocket attacks and bomb blasts.

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Outlook

Soviet military operations appear to be aimed mainly at securing airfields and garrisons from insurgent attacks and at improving highway security. Fighting is likely to continue at a high level in the weeks ahead. We believe that the Soviets will increasingly call upon their elite Spetsnaz forces and employ air assaults to locate and engage insurgent forces. Operations such as the Konar Valley offensive probably will have little effect on the insurgents' ability to maintain their supply lines.

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